

***Anemone nuttalliana* DC.**
pasque flower
Ranunculaceae (Buttercup Family)

Status: State Threatened
Rank: G4S1

General Description: Grayish hairy perennial with one to many stems 2 to 10 in. (5 to 25 cm) tall; covered more or less with gray hairs; leaves numerous, basal, ternate and dissected into linear divisions, long petioles developing after the first flower; flowers single with 5 to 7 blue to purple petal-like sepals, stamens numerous. The linear and silky seeds have long plume-like styles, which give the fruiting head the appearance of a small feather duster.

Identification Tips: Plumose styles, blue to purple colored sepals and leaves that are dissected into linear segments distinguish *A. nuttalliana*. Additionally, the stems of *A. nuttalliana* are mostly 2 to 10 in. (5 to 25 cm) long and its leaves are dissected into 2 to 3 segments while the closely related *A. occidentalis* has stems that are 8 to 24 in. (20 to 60 cm) long and basal leaves that are 3 to 4 times dissected.

Phenology: The taxon flowers from late May through August. The first flowers often appear soon after the first snow melts. Plants become dormant in late August or September and may remain in this condition for many years.

Range: Known from Alaska to Alberta, south through the Great Plains in Montana to Texas and in Illinois in the eastern United States. A disjunct species in Washington, the taxon is found in Chelan and Kittitas counties.

Habitat: *Anemone nuttalliana* occurs in ponderosa pine-Douglas fir (*Pinus ponderosa*-*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) forests and grasslands dominated by needle-and-thread grass (*Stipa* spp.) and bluegrass (*Poa* spp.). The taxon is found in prairies, wet meadows and on alpine slopes and ridges in loose, sandy, well drained soil. In Washington, known populations are located at 5000-6000 feet (1520-1824 m) in elevation.

Ecology: The species is not tolerant of major disturbances caused by activities such as digging and plowing, but mild disruptions may be beneficial to some populations. Large specimens have been found where there are occasional disturbances such as mowing or grazing. These activities may activate and increase the number of underground dormant buds, leading to a larger and more branched rootstock. These buds ordinarily become dormant in the fall and may remain in that condition for many years, enabling the plant to thrive on periodic injury to its crown.

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Known distribution of
Anemone nuttalliana
in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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State Status Comments: Populations in Washington state are quite small and disjunct from the ordinary range of the species.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed. Known populations should be resurveyed to determine population trends and further nearby populations.

Threats and Management Concerns: Potential threats include disturbance from timber harvesting or agricultural developments and over collecting.

Comments: A synonym for this species is *Pulsatilla patens* ssp. *multifida* (NatureServe). Hitchcock (1964) refers to this species as *Anemone patens*.

References:

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